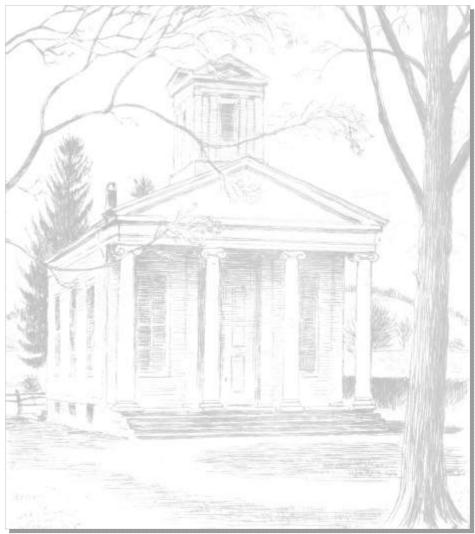
Saint Luke's Church



JANUARY 17TH, 2021

185th Annual Meeting

THE REV'D MICHAEL WATSON PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

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Father Mike's Annual & Pledge Report

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

4 BAPTISMS 2 EPISCOPAL VISITATION 3 CONFIRMATIONS 11 RECEPTIONS 0 WEDDINGS 5 FUNERALS

APPOINTMENTS FOR 2021

TREASURER: ERIC RIEDER SENIOR WARDEN: KAREN KELLOGG JUNIOR WARDEN: JOSEPH CIAVARDINI CLERK OF THE ANNUAL MEETING: SUE WILLIS PRIEST-IN-CHARGE: THE REV'D MICHAEL WATSON

CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY: CLASS OF 2024

Doug Abdelnour Mary Churchill Joseph Ciavardini Herman Clark

DOUG ABDELNOUR biography

I grew up in Port Chester, NY. I went to both public and private schools through high school and graduated from Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA, with a BA. I studied art, economics, sociology, and some business along with various media courses or programs. I was doing photography since a teenager and found employment from graduation to present day doing photography and professional imaging work plus various multi-media projects from time to time. I have been self-employed since 1975. My current studio is located on Route 100 in Somers.

I moved to Somers in 1987 and started a family with wife, Maureen, two sons, Morgan (31) and Duncan (29). I've been a regular at Saint Luke's since the early 1990s and have been a vestry member for almost half those years.

JOSEPH CIAVARDINI biography

I have been a parishioner at St. Luke's Church since 2015 and I served on the vestry from 2016-2019. I have been married to my amazing wife Nicole for 13 years and have two beautiful children: Isabella (9) and Luca (8). I grew up in Somers and graduated from Somers High. I attended Fairfield University where I earned a BS in Finance and played Division I baseball. I am actively involved in the Somers baseball community; currently serving as the head coach of the 8U travel baseball team. Professionally, I used to work in the Hedge Fund industry and now I am a finance and accounting recruiter at Robert Half.

HERMAN CLARKE biography

St. Luke's has been my place of worship for the past three years and I am looking forward in continuing that spiritual bond at St. Luke's. I was Baptized and Confirmed at St. Mark's Anglican Church in Jamaica.

I was a financial service professional for over 30 years – worked for JP Morgan, State Street and Alliance Bernstein. I graduated from St. Peter's University, New Jersey City NJ with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting.

I am living in the town of Somers for the past four years; I also lived in the neighboring town of Lewisboro for 12 years.

MARY CHURCHILL biography

My name is Mary Churchill and I have been a parishioner at St. Luke's for approximately 10 years. I started coming when asked to take my friend to Church. At that point, I was Catholic but was restless in that Church. The first time I stepped into St. Luke's; we were greeted with warmth and a smile. That continues to this day. In 2017, I was received into the Episcopal Church. One of the priests asked me, rather tongue in cheek, after that service if I felt any different. I remember saying I finally felt like I was where I belonged. I am an elementary teacher by trade, however, am now working for the Town of Bethel (CT) where I reside with my youngest son. My oldest son lives in NC pursuing an advanced degree. January 19, 2020

With the hospitalization of Fr. Mike Watson, Senior Warden Duanne Simon facilitated the meeting which followed Morning Prayer. She began by thanking Janet Repman for organizing and printing today's reports and all parishoners for attending despite the inclement weather. She also expressed gratitude to those who helped Ginger Horvath with the celebration following the January 12 Confirmation and Reception with the Bishop. Duanne recited the following milestones for 2019: 2 Baptisms, 0 Episcopal Visitations, 0 Confirmations, 0 Receptions, 0 Weddings, 5 Funerals. She asked attendees to read the Annual Meeting (2019) minutes. A motion was made by Janet Howard to approve the minutes. All in attendance voted "aye". The 2019 Annual Meeting minutes were approved.

Duanne highlighted excerpts from her detailed written report. Junior Warden Christian Sundahl highlighted points from his report and encouraged parishoners to bring any problems or "wish list" items to his attention. In the absence of Fr. Mike, Mike Basile read the Rector's Report. Treasurer Eric Rieder articulated the highlights of the Treasurer's Report prepared by outgoing Treasurer Denis Brathwaite. Duanne thanked Eric for assuming this new role and responsibility. Duanne recognized the service of Mike Basile, Joe Ciavardini, and Steven Siciliano whose Vestry terms have ended. Mike and Joe will serve on the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Steven will continue his involvement in various ministries (such as choir.)

The nominations for Vestry (Class of 2023) were announced: Angela M. Garr, Karen W. Kellogg, Lynda L. Magrath, and Christian A. Sundahl. There were no nominations from the floor. Vivian Peters made a motion to accept the nominees; all in attendance voted "aye.

Duanne thanked everyone for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Willis, Clerk of the Vestry

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT:

2020 kicked off to an amazing start on January 12th with a visit from Bishop Dietze for Confirmation Sunday. Ginger and the Parish provided a beautiful reception which was held in our newly painted undercroft. The very large number of Confirmands and the Bishop's visit was a rewarding milestone for both Fr. Mike and the Parish.

Later that week 2020 began to take a turn at Saint Luke's, as Fr. Mike was required to undergo bypass surgery. Fortunately, the Parish's goals and endurance during Fr. Mike's 3-month convalescence continued, strengthened by his constant leadership and the renewed spirit he inspired in all of us. I would especially like to personally thank Janet Repman and Lynda Magrath for their help and support in supplying the Parish with positive updates during that crucial time.

Fr. Mike officially returned for only one Sunday before the Bishop had to cease church services due to COVID 19. On behalf of the Vestry and Parish, I would like to thank Fr. Mike for his selfless dedication and the tireless hours he invested to keep us in close communication. He kept the mission and spirit of St. Luke's alive with live streaming of services, and dispensed as much Pastoral Care as the parish needed, all from a safe distance. He also went to great lengths to guide us with ways to stay safe when service returned, including outdoor tent seating in the summer and two indoor services during the cold weather months.

On behalf of the Parish and Vestry, I would also like to acknowledge:

Canon Jeanne Person, Fr. Hal Roark, Bishop Glasspool, and Mo. Lynn Harrington for their encouragement and help during Fr. Mike's absence.

Janet Repman for all of her talent, hard work and wonderful disposition, all while keeping us on track administratively through the restrictions of the pandemic.

Marion Comins for her time and diligence in assisting our Treasurer, directing our bookkeeper, for her many special trips to church to sign checks, plus the time she donates twice a month as a Sunday counter. Marion also supervises our Sunday counters, Janet Howard, Vivian Peters, Duanne Simon and Sue Willis.

Eric Rieder who diligently works with our Bookkeeper and Marion to provide the Vestry with monthly financial statements as well as our yearly budget.

Joyce and Lester Ottinger, the Altar Guild and LEMs who helped Fr. Mike provide the parish with live-streamed services every Sunday while the Church was closed, and contributed every Sunday during normal times.

The Building and Grounds Committee, whom along with Santos Cardona and Nora Guerra, dedicate themselves to the care of our church and lawns.

Ginger Horvath, who created a beautiful reception with the help of the Parish for Bishop Dietze and the Confirmands on January 12th, and kept us nourished with her wonderful hot soup and garlic bread every Coffee Hour until the COVID closing.

I would like to personally thank the Vestry for their dedication and diligence in attending monthly meetings via Zoom. We all owe a special thanks to Lynda Magrath and Karen Kellogg for the countless hours they donated to reorganize and direct the Food Pantry, and also to Sue Willis for her continuing participation.

I would like to thank Father Mike on behalf of the Vestry and Parish for his untiring passion and nurturing spirit. We would not have achieved this measure of growth and wellbeing without his leadership, positive attitude and vision. We are also especially thankful for his open-door policy and his special gift for Pastoral Care. We most certainly would not have survived this pandemic without his leadership, for which I feel he has become a model for his Clericus if not the entire Diocese. If I were allowed to give one, and I feel the Vestry and Parish would totally agree, we would all bestow the Warden's cross to Father Michael Watson for keeping us together in the incredibly difficult year of 2020.

Duanne Simon

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT:

2020 Buildings and grounds

Due to COVID-19, there have been minimal expenses in maintenance to the buildings and grounds since the building has been unoccupied, other than staff and on Sundays (once in person worship resumed). Other than the annual service agreements and the renovations to the classrooms for the new food pantry location, we have had less maintenance this year which includes minor electrical and a new faucet in the men's bathroom that was leaking, a new sump pump was installed to help with the flooding situation we had in the undercroft. With all of this, as you can see, we are well below our budget for this year.

Christian Sundahl

TREASURER'S REPORT:

2020 has been a challenging year financially, but also one of continued support by our parishioners, the Thrift Shop and our Space Use Renters who have continued to pay their rent despite not being able to use the undercroft. As a result of Covid-19, there was a \$59K decline in income. Major components of this were: Pledge & Plate (-\$24K), Thrift Shop (-\$14K; it was closed for 3 months), and Fund Raising/Space Use (-\$12). Personal Expenses were up by \$17K, but this was more than offset by lower Operating Expenses, major components being lower utility bills (less heating and A/C) and lower than expected Repairs and Maintenance requirements. During the same period, donations to the Food Pantry totaled \$132K versus a plan of only \$13K. Please note that donations to the Food Pantry can only be used to support its operation and cannot be used to cover other SLC expenses.

In the past, the financial activities of SLC and the Food Pantry were presented as a single entity which is how the accounting system works. However, due to the very high activity level of the Food Pantry, this would have resulted in a distorted picture of SLC's 2020 financial results. Therefore, I have split SLC and the Food Pantry into two parts as shown below, all in thousands of dollars:

\$K		SLC				FOOD PA	NTRY
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE		BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Income	\$296	\$237	-\$59	Donations	\$13	\$132	\$119
Expenses	\$247	\$239	-\$7	Expenses	\$4	\$21*	\$17
Net	\$49	-\$3	-\$52	Net	\$8	\$98	\$90

As you can see, while there was a significant decline in SLC's net income to -\$3K, this was in reality a very good result considering the very trying financial conditions that SLC experienced during 2020. *Food Pantry expenses are for food purchases and for the modifications necessary to move the Food Pantry operation to one of the classrooms. The continued support by the parish and the community of the Food Pantry is really something that everyone should be very proud of.

If anyone is interested, I can send you copies of the underlying spreadsheets for the above table.

Eric S. Rieder, Treasurer

MINISTRY REPORT

ALTAR GUILD:

Despite our unusual services, the Altar hangings needed to be kept up according to the Liturgical Calendar. The linens needed to be laundered, and the silver needed to be kept polished. Thanks to the Altar Guild "Angels", all of these were accomplished. Our thanks to all of them.

The only news to report is an anonymous gift of a new white Chasuble and Stole which replace the old threadbare set. We are truly grateful for this fabulous donation! Respectfully submitted,

Dorothea Mangieri and Pat Schilpp, Co-Chairs

COUNTERS:

2021 was a very difficult year on many levels. As we did not have any in-church services from March through June, mailed-in and dropped off donations were counted once a week and deposited at Citibank which only opened one day a week. Our parishioners were extremely generous and we were able to maintain our budgeted income throughout this closure. We resumed Sunday collection counting in July when the Sunday service opened again with our same rotating counters of Vivian Peters/Janet Howard and Duanne Simon/MarionComins.

We are all looking forward to the end of this pandemic when unlimited normal attendance can resume with our choir!!

Marion Comins

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

To say the least it has been an unusual year for the LEM's. Thanks to Fr. Mike's ingenuity and the audio-visual geniuses of our congregation, a Eucharist Service was held weekly throughout Spring and Summer, and transmitted by computer to the homes of congregants.

In the Fall, we were allowed to have more congregation present for services. Although a LEM was present for the services all year, duties were very limited since we were not allowed to use any wine. Even though we now have two services on Sundays, LEM duties are still limited. Hopefully, with time, we will return to our normal LEM activities. On a much brighter note we were delighted to welcome Steve Siciliano as a new LEM this year.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothea Mangieri

SOMERS FOOD PANTRY AT SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH:

The Food Pantry underwent a change in management in early August of 2020. This was brought about by an upsurge in the number of weekly patrons, and by a corresponding increase in donated goods and funds during the peak Covid-19 months. The Pandemic created unexpected but necessary changes to the structure and operations of the original Pantry, primarily in the creation of the "drive-thru" format. At the same time, many of the long-time volunteers asked to be excused due to personal health concerns. It became incumbent upon St. Luke's to ask for new volunteers from the parish and the local community, and to provide Vestry oversight and leadership. An Advisory Committee was formed, with the goal of creating an updated Pantry blending the original model with one reflecting current needs. Much time and effort was given by all concerned to achieve this goal, but the desired outcome was not achieved. As a result, the Vestry decided to accept the former director's resignation and appoint an interim chair and vice chair for the remainder of 2020.

Friday Drive-Thru Distribution

The Drive-Thru format, established in late March, continued through the year, in all weathers. Volunteers placed pre-packed bags of non-perishables and fresh food directly into patrons' car trunks. Additional donations included 30 pizzas delivered on several Fridays from II Forno restaurant. In the summer, volunteers initiated the offering of optional items offered to patrons (flour, coffee, cleaning supplies, masks, hand-sanitizer.) Inspired by the needs of our regular patrons, Pantry volunteers donated additional diapers. An Additional First-Saturday-of-Month Drive-Thru was held in October, November, and December. The last Drive-Thru of 2020, on December 18th, provided patrons with a double supply of staples and produce, along with bonus holiday groceries and goodies, and gift cards to local grocery stores and CVS.

Donations and Patronage

Collection drives were held by Heritage Hills, The Somers PTAs, Girl Scout Troop 1413, Somers High School Class of 2020, and several individual citizens of local communities who solicited contributions from neighbors and friends. Donations collected from the Somers Firehouse were delivered regularly. Food donations were placed daily in the bins outside the church office, and at DeCicco's Market. A check for \$3,350 was presented to the FP Interim Chair by the Somers Lions, bringing the Lions' 2020 contribution to nearly \$10,000. Fr. Mike was handed a check for \$17,000 from Somers Rotary. A \$25,000 check for the Pantry was mailed to St. Luke's from a local donor at the end of the year.

This year, the FP agreed to take primary responsibility for coordinating a separate Thanksgiving collection and distribution. This event was previously organized by the Somers Schools' social workers, teachers, and PTAs, with St. Luke's serving only as a distribution point. Nearly 200 baskets and bags of Thanksgiving-related food and staples, gift cards, and other goods were delivered by a number of Somers Scout troops, PTAs, II Forno, local individuals and civic groups. St. Luke's FP volunteers organized and distributed the goods on November 24th.

Drive-Thru Pantry patronage reached a high of about 50 cars in March through May; it decreased slowly to about 20 during the summer, then rose beginning in the Fall to about 30 cars, and increased to over 35 cars during the Thanksgiving/Christmas season. At the same time, parishioners donated goods and gift cards, and numerous unsolicited donations of food, money, and gift cards arrived regularly at St. Luke's. In addition to the usual donations, people brought in turkeys, hams, baked goods, gift cards, and checks for as much as \$500 to \$1000. The collection bins at DeCicco's Market were filled to capacity daily. Assemblyman Kevin Byrne's office's offer of a carload of goods came after the last Drive-Thru had occurred; it was directed, with thanks, to Northern Westchester Community Center's Food Pantry.

Volunteers

The FP has an email list of 17 individuals, including Fr. Mike. Of the 16, nine are St. Luke's parishioners, seven are from the local community. Several are inactive for various reasons, but wish to remain on the mailing list. All are dedicated, collegial, reliable, and generous with their time and ideas: truly a team effort. On Thursdays the "super sorters and power packers" stored recent donations and prepared the non-perishable bags for Fridays, when additional volunteers packed produce bags, set up and took down the tables and tent, and placed all grocery items in patrons' cars. This was physical work, but everyone pitched in gladly whatever the weather.

FP volunteers, along with Somers Girl Scout Troop 1415 and Troop 1445 spent some

of their Christmas vacation transferring all the food and goods in the Undercroft to the new Pantry space. By the close of 2020, the Undercroft was completely cleared of Pantry supplies, making the new space operational and ready for the first distribution of 2021. It is hoped that Covid subsides enough so that we can segue from "drive-thru" to "choice" mode later this year.

Westchester Planning Office Grant

The execution and implementation of the \$25,000 Grant to refurbish, outfit, and restock the Food Pantry took priority in the final months of the year. While the chair and vice chair, Karen Kellogg, took the lead in planning, organizing, and purchasing, many thanks go to Joe Ciavardini and John Currie for coordinating with Apap Painting, handling the purchase of appliances, shelving, cabinets and a storage shed. And most helpful assistance was provided by Marion Comins, Duanne Simon, Janet Repman, and of course, Fr. Mike.

Respectfully submitted, Lynda L. Magrath, Interim Chair

MUSIC:

In a year like no other, writing this annual report is a challenge. Choir was meeting, as usual, each Sunday morning at 8:45 to rehearse, and then to sing the 10:00 service. The last Sunday we had choir was March 8th.

St. Luke's, unlike many other churches, was able to have music throughout the time when the church was closed to public worship. Many remarked that the music took on extra meaning during a time when they could not enter their own church. Some were singing along from home. It was comforting to hear the sounds of St. Luke's beautiful organ.

While it is wonderful to be able to assemble for worship, it is difficult that we cannot enjoy singing together. This is a real loss for many. I think it is safe to say that we will never again take our hymn singing for granted. Personally, I love singing the Gloria, and it will be a great day when we can do that again.

One bright spot is that we were able to host the Westchester Oratorio Society for the Messiah Sing Along again this year. This was a virtual sing a long. Soloists, conductor and organist were in the church, and others were able to log on at home and sing a long. This was a very successful event for the Oratorio Society. They increased their audience this year with a strong marketing campaign via social media. They were able to pay their musicians and conductor and make a contribution to St. Luke's as well.

Choir will resume as soon as it is safe to do so. We are blessed with a wonderful choir, and I know they are anxious to be back together in the choir loft. Lester and I are anxious to have them back. At least, at this point, we can see light at the end of the tunnel.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Ottinger, Music Director

THRIFT SHOP:

Because of COVID, the Thrift Shop was forced to close on March 14th. A barrier was then built around the cash register area and a tent was erected behind the shop. This tent not only allowed us to accept donations again, but also afforded us the opportunity to "airout" donations before bringing them into the shop and risking COVID contamination.

After a 3 1/2 month hiatus, we ultimately reopened on June 27th, maintaining the suggested safety precautions.

Needless to say, our annual income dropped, but we still managed to bring in \$32,753 as compared to last year's \$42,252!

Again, because of the viurs, we were unable to donate to most of our Outreach recipients, but did make large clothing contributions to the Veterans and the Community Center in Katonah.

Sincere thanks to our volunteers who so steadfastly returned to the shop and special thanks to our volunteer men who are so helpful with heavy lifting and trash disposal. We couldn't survive without all of you!

A special thanks to Pat Schilpp for her generous donation of our new cash register. Respectfully submitted,

Dorothea Mangieri

FUNDRAISING

ONLINE PLANT SALE:

Like many things in 2020 we were unable to hold our annual plant sale. But that didn't stop us from going virtual. We teamed up with a great organization, Three Rivers Wreath and Plant Co. to bring the plant sale to our community online. Three Rivers made the process easy, supplied media marketing tools, and a personalized fundraising website. We had a great response and despite the changes still made a nice profit. The plant sale has always been a great way for parishioners new and old to work together and get to know each other, so we certainly missed that aspect and hope to get back to it soon. Until that time, we plan to hold another virtual fundraiser this spring.

Angela Garr .

CHRISTIAN FORMATION REPORTS

DISCOVERY HOUR:

In June of this year, we embarked on a new venture...Discovery Hours via Zoom! We started by watching the series called "The Chosen." It's a crowd funded multi-season series about the life of Christ. The next Discovery Hour was the reading and discussing of Gilead by Marilynne Robinson. This novel was about fathers and sons and battles they faced, including spiritual battles. That was followed by Bishop Curry's newest book, Love Is the Way. There are no many challenges facing us today and Bishop Michael Curry shows us how to live in the way of love. Our current discussion group is based on the book, Jesus: A New Vision by Marcus Borg. This book will attempt to help us broaden our vision of Jesus.

I think I speak for most members of the group, we weren't sure how or if having a discussion group on Zoom would work. Based on the members who keep showing up, it has worked and many bonds have been formed. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. If you're interested in joining us, we would love to have you. Maybe you'd like to join us one night to see what it's like. You may have something to add to the discussion or you may feel more comfortable listening and watching. It's a great way to be connected while keeping everyone safe. Feel free to reach out to me (marychurchill3394@gmail.com) so I can provide the Zoom link. I think you'll be glad you did.

Mary Churchill

MORNING PRAYER SERVICES:

Father Mike took some well deserved time off at the end of September through October. On those Sundays, we had the following people volunteer to lead the Morning Prayer Service and/or preach:

- On 9/27/2020, Sue Willis was the officiant and preacher.
- On 10/4/2020, Steve Siciliano was the officiant and Emma Sweeny was the preacher.
- On 10/11/2020, Dorothea Mangieri was the officiant and Joe Ciavardini was the preacher.
- On 10/18/2020, Pat Schlipp officiated and Mary Churchill was the preacher.
- On 10/25/2020, Steve Siciliano officiated and preached.

As much as Father Mike was missed, it was interesting to hear from members of our congregation from the pulpit.

Mary Churchill

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Although the Sunday School children could meet only a few times (due to the pandemic), I exchanged emails with their parents throughout the year and we assured one another of prayerful good wishes. Just before the church's closure in mid March, we celebrated the First Holy Communion of two of the boys. In the spirit of the children's outreach ministry to their peers in Honduras last year, the parish participated again in "Operation Christmas Child." Shoeboxes were filled with hygiene items, school supplies, and small toys. These tangible signs of God's love were sent to children in Ukraine. We look forward to resuming our in-person programming with The Greatest Journey, a book of Bible stories and relevant activities.

Sue Willis

FATHER MIKE'S ANNUAL & PLEDGE REPORT

Please find separate report

Proposed Schedule of Events for 2021

February 17	Ash Wednesday	7:00pm
March 14	Daylight Saving Time begins	
March 28	Palm Sunday	10:00am
April 1	Maundy Thursday	7:00pm
April 2	Good Friday - Solemn Liturgy	7:00pm
April 4	Easter Festal Eucharist Easter Egg Hunt	10:00am after 10:00am Service
May 16	Spring Work Day & Meal	
May 1-11	Plant Sale	10:00am - 6:00pm
May 9	Mother's Day	
May 23	Pentecost Sunday	10:00am
June 20	Father's Day	
September 12	Sunday School Start	
September (TBD)	Fall Work Day	
October 3	Animal Blessing Fall Barbecue	during 10:00am service after 10:00am service
October 17	Celebrate Saint Luke's Feast Day	
November 7	All Saints Day Oservance - Special S	Service 10:00am
November 7	Daylight Saving Time ends	
November 20	Holiday Bazaar	10:00am - 4:00pm
November 5	Thanksgiving Day	10:00am
December 5	Messiah Sing-Along Westchester Ora	atorio Society 3:00pm
November 8	First Sunday of Advent	
December 24	Festal Eucharist	4:30pm & 10:30pm
December 25	Christmas Day - One Service -Rite II	10:00am